

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5289.01	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 00/ 29813	International filing date (day/month/year) 27/10/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 27/10/1999
Applicant DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS, INC.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 07 sheets.
 It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

as suggested by the applicant.

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

because this figure better characterizes the invention.

24b

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/29813

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/60 H04L29/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04L G06F H04J H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 99 45491 A (NUVOMEDIA INC) 10 September 1999 (1999-09-10) page 5, line 25 -page 8, line 21 ---	1-17, 38-47, 49-53
Y	DAN A ET AL: "A DYNAMIC POLICY OF SEGMENT REPLICATION FOR LOAD-BALANCING IN VIDEO-ON-DEMAND SERVERS" MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS, SPRINGER VERLAG, DE, vol. 3, no. 3, July 1995 (1995-07), pages 93-103, XP000865922 ISSN: 0942-4962 page 93, right-hand column, paragraph 1 -page 94, left-hand column, paragraph 1 ---	1-17, 38-47, 49-53

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

5 November 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

04.02.03

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 08, 30 June 1999 (1999-06-30) & JP 11 068770 A (NEC CORP), 9 March 1999 (1999-03-09) abstract ---	1-17, 38-47, 49-53
A	US 5 819 301 A (MCQUARRIE ELIZABETH M ET AL) 6 October 1998 (1998-10-06) column 3, line 40 -column 7, line 49 -----	1-17, 38-47, 49-53

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 00/29813

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-17, 28-37, 38-47, 49-53

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-17,49-53,28-37,38-47

Independent claim 1 relates to a method for distributing electronic books to subscribers that comprises the steps of: determining a queue location for an ordered electronic book, placing first sections of electronic books in a first queue and placing second sections of electronic books in second queues.

Independent claim 38 relates to the same subject-matter as that of independent claim 1 in combination with dependent claim 2 differing only in that the method is claimed to be suitable for communicating between an electronic book distribution centre and an electronic viewer.

Independent claim 28 relates to a method of distributing electronic books wherein a second section of a requested electronic book is retrieved and provided.

2. Claims: 18-27

Independent claim 18 relates to a method for delivering electronic books comprising the steps of: locating a requested main section of an electronic book and providing the located main section of the electronic book.

3. Claim : 48

Independent claim 48 relates to a method of displaying information to subscribers in an electronic book delivery system wherein first sections of electronic books are sent to electronic book readers, requests are received for second sections of electronic books corresponding to one or more of the sent first sections and second sections are sent to readers requesting the second sections.

4. Claims: 54-60

Independent method claim 54 relates to a method of prioritizing distribution of electronic books wherein electronic books are placed in one of a plurality of queues, each queue being emptied according to a priority model.

5. Claims: 61-71

Independent method claim 61 relates to a method of providing

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

a virtual electronic book on demand service wherein first and second sections of selected electronic books are provided to subscribers of a service.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/29813

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9945491	A	10-09-1999	US	2001011238 A1		02-08-2001
			EP	1070298 A1		24-01-2001
			EP	1121779 A1		08-08-2001
			WO	9945491 A1		10-09-1999
			WO	0021239 A1		13-04-2000
			US	2001012000 A1		09-08-2001
			US	2002007454 A1		17-01-2002
JP 11068770	A	09-03-1999	JP	2967767 B2		25-10-1999
US 5819301	A	06-10-1998	US	5737599 A		07-04-1998
			US	5781785 A		14-07-1998
			CA	2233023 A1		03-04-1997
			EP	0870246 A1		14-10-1998
			JP	2000500887 T		25-01-2000
			WO	9712328 A1		03-04-1997
			US	6073148 A		06-06-2000
			US	5860074 A		12-01-1999